

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01950 132318Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/069 W
-----126460 150302Z /64
R 131929Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1616

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, BF
SUBJ: KNOWLES RESIGNS FROM BDP TO BECOME INDEPENDENT MP

REF: (A) 77 NASSAU A-31 (B) 78 NASSAU A-29, PART 5

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DISILLUSIONED WITH THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF OFFICIAL
OPPOSITION, CAT ISLAND MP ERVEN KNOWLES HAS RESIGNED FROM
THE BDP EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28. KNOWLES, WHO MADE HIS SUCCESSFUL
POLITICAL DEBUT IN JULY, 1977 GENERAL ELECTIONS (REF A)
NOTIFIED THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF HIS RESIGNATION
AT ITS SESSION SEPTEMBER 13, THUS REDUCING THE ALREADY
SLIM RANKS OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION FROM 6 TO 5. THE 44
YEAR OLD BUILDING CONTRACTOR WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT HIS
CAT ISLAND CONSTITUENTS AS SOLE INDEPENDENT IN PARLIAMENT.
FOLLOWING THE READING OF KNOWLES' HOUSE NOTIFICATION, DPM
HANNA, SPEAKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, SAID THAT "KNOWLES'
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS AN INDEPENDENT WOULD BE
RESPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT."

2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL PRESS KNOWLES DENIED RUMORS
HE PLANS TO BEGIN A NEW POLITICAL PARTY STRESSING THAT "THE
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BDP'S POOR DECISIONS, LACK OF ACTION AND IGNORING OF THE
PEOPLE ARE THE REASONS BEHIND THE RESIGNATION." KNOWLES ADDED
THE BREAKING POINT WITH BDP LEADERSHIP WAS PRECIPITATED BY
HENRY BOSTWICK'S VOTING LAST MAY (ALONG WITH TWO OTHER BDP
MPS) AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT REQUEST TO BORROW DOLS 53 MILLION,
A PART OF WHICH WOULD GO TOWARDS WHAT KNOWLES FEELS ARE
VITALLY NEEDED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. (REF B)

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3. COMMENT: WHILE KNOWLES' DEFECTION POSES NO THREAT TO THE ALREADY SOLID 30 MAN PLP GOVERNMENT MAJORITY, IT COMES AT AN AWKWARD TIME FOR THE BDP SINCE THE BDP IN AUGUST ANNOUNCED A MAJOR REORGANIZATION IN PARTY BUREAUCRACY WITH THE ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVE TO INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IN ADDITION IT CAUSES EMBARRASSMENT COMING ONLY WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST BDP CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
SHANKLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU01950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780375-0207
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780972/aaaachhf.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf065851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NASSAU A-31, 78 NASSAU A-29
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1453735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNOWLES RESIGNS FROM BDP TO BECOME INDEPENDENT MP
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, BF, (KNOWLES, ERVEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf065851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014